

## DIER AVERS HE KNEW NOTHING OF BUSINESS

**Bankrupt Broker Only Got Customers—Cannot Explain Huge Shortage.**

**FIRM FUNDS BUY GEMS**

**Mysterious Account No. 33 Uncovered—No Tidings of Missing \$700,000.**

**VICTIMS HOOT AND JEER**

**Light on Stoneham Negotiations—Barrels of Whisky Reported as Vanished.**

Elmore D. Dier, head of the bankrupt brokerage firm of E. D. Dier & Co., testifying yesterday before Seaman Miller, referee in bankruptcy, 2 Rector street, admitted that he knew virtually nothing of how the business was run or who was running it. He said he was "not a bookkeeper or a broker," and that he never sold a single share of stock in his life.

Dier said it would be impossible for him to account for the shortage in the company's books. He said that Col. Henry D. Hughes, his former partner in the firm of Hughes & Dier, knew all about the business, but that Hughes had never put up a cent.

"He was the broker and I was the organizer," said Dier. "He ran the brokerage end and I was to organize and get the money and the customers."

"You did that, all right," shouted several of the 200 former customers who had packed the room for the hearing. In fact the session was punctuated throughout by the jeers and hisses of these creditors, many of whom said they had lost the savings of a life time in the bankrupt firm. Dier's lack of knowledge of the workings of the firm was shown by the fact that he said he could not estimate within \$100,000 the annual expenses.

**Costly Jewelry for Wives.**

Dier testified that Hughes bought a \$15,000 pearl necklace for Mrs. Dier and paid for it by a check on E. D. Dier & Co. This action by Hughes was necessary, he explained, because Hughes had bought a necklace for his own wife and Mrs. Dier had to have something just as good as what Mrs. Hughes had. He said Hughes could explain why the firm check was used.

Mr. Dier was questioned for more than two hours by Arthur G. Hays and Saul S. Myers, attorneys for the receiver. Dier was represented by Charles A. Winter.

The principal points covered in the questioning of Dier yesterday were the transactions between Hughes and Dier; between Dier and Charles A. Stoneham, owner of the Giants; the amount of property owned by Mrs. Dier, and how much about the "inside workings" of the firm Dier knew.

Although the session was supposed to be held mainly to hear the "payment plan" of Dier, which his attorney, Nash Rockwood, asserts will pay 100 cents on the dollar, no mention of it was made until after adjournment. Mr. Rockwood failed to appear and Mr. Winter represented him, but knew nothing of the "plan," which has to do with the offer of mining stock as part payment to the creditors.

Dier became quite indignant during the questioning and frequently answered "I don't know." He shouted many replies at the attorneys one moment and the next became emotional when he spoke of the several months during which Mrs. Dier had been ill and in a Philadelphia hospital. He testified later that he never had gone to visit her nor communicated with her all that time she was so seriously ill, and did not have any idea of how much money of property she has at present. He didn't even remember whether or not he had ever bought his wife a \$3,500 fur coat or a \$15,000 automobile, or even any jewelry for which the receiver's attorneys have the receipts bills, amounting to some \$100,000.

Admitting that he knew absolutely nothing of the brokerage business, Dier at every point told the examiner to "consult the books," where, he said, they could find out anything they wished about the business.

**Creditors Jeer at Witness.**

"How can I tell what happened in business?" he asked the attorneys. "I always left everything like that to the cashier, the auditor and the people in the cage. I can't account for the shortage in the business, truthfully I can't. I know I haven't got any of it." This was greeted with more hoots and jeers by the creditors.

"I want to do everything I can for all my creditors," Dier went on. "I will pay it all back, dollar for dollar, if I have to work the rest of my natural life." He was at the head of the firm, but not responsible to the creditors? Here the uproar became so serious that Referee Miller had to stop and call for order before the examiner could go on.

"Who is responsible?" he was asked "consult the books," he snapped angrily. "I'm no bookkeeper!"

Details of the transfer of the business to Charles A. Stoneham to Dier & Co., of Dier's trip to the Klondike, his former partnership with Col. Hughes and the falling off of business just before the failure were recounted by Dier with many lapses of memory interspersed among the answers. He told how he had to put up \$50,000 and his friends several hundred thousand more to start the firm of Hughes & Dier, but said that Hughes hadn't "put up a single red cent."

Dier testified that up to just before the failure he had between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in bonds belonging to him in a safe in his office. Questioned as to where he got these from, he said that he had bought them with money he had made on other deals in the mining game. Several hundred thousand dollars were "given to him as a present," he said, by a man named Jacob Nolde, a laundry manufacturer of Reading, Pa., who has since died.

No accounting of what became of the \$200,000 which Dier sent over to the Philadelphia office at the time of Hughes's withdrawal from the firm could be offered, he said. It was sent to off customers, Dier said, and denied that he knew why Hughes had been expelled from the Philadelphia Stock Ex-

change. Dier testified that he "didn't know who got that money," but that the "auditors and his office force told him it was all right," so he let it go at that.

"To the best of my knowledge the business was solvent at that time," he said. "I asked my auditors and they told me I was solvent, so I must have been."

"Do you believe everything every one told you?" he was asked. "Do you believe Shrimpton, Andrews, Stroth?" "I don't believe anybody now!" Dier replied with a knowing smile.

**Dier's Deal With Stoneham.**

Dier testified that the Stoneham negotiations were begun before Hughes was expelled from the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, and were carried on for a number of months. Dier said that he didn't know enough about the business to transact this business himself, so he and Stoneham left the matter to their aide—Ross F. Robertson and Fred Andrews—who "put the deal through."

That the Dier firm was running a "short" account known as "No. 33" was also disclosed in the testimony yesterday. Dier said he had no idea of how much business was transacted, whether or not there were profits or losses, and could not estimate within \$1,000,000 of the amount it cost the firm to operate each year. He admitted that a "new system of bookkeeping" had been entered into, and that Nash Rockwood and Senator Clayton Lusk had "looked over the books" about the time the tickers were taken out of Dier's offices by the Stock Exchange. Senator Lusk, he said, helped him to get the tickers back.

Dier was asked what had become of the six or seven barrels of liquor which were taken from his Atlantic City home at night recently. He denied knowledge of what had become of the liquor and said he had never had any valuable stock of liquor. He interjected pathetic account of how he is unable to meet the premium payments of his two life insurance policies of \$25,000 each; how he has had to take his son, Robert, away from college for lack of money, and how he is "without a single nickel."

He said he had been boarding with different friends, including Mrs. Lawrence, mother of one of the members of his firm, who has an apartment at 160 Park avenue. He said he also stopped over night at several hotels in the city, but could not remember what hotels they were.

"I can't stop at any big hotels since I lost every cent in the failure," he testified at the examiners, while the creditors gazed and jeered.

**Boarding Around With Friends.**

That Hughes had bought the pearl necklace valued at more than \$45,000 for Mrs. Dier was the statement of the witness. He said that Hughes did not make a present of it to Mrs. Dier, but that "he was buying one for his own wife, and so he had to buy one for my wife." The bill for the jewels was paid by checks on E. D. Dier & Co. A heated controversy took place between the Hughes and Dier women as to who had the better necklace, and several additional gems were added later on. These were also paid by check drawn against E. D. Dier & Co. However, Dier said, all that should be explained by Hughes, as he knew more about it than Dier did.

Mr. Winter asked for an adjournment, saying that it appeared that the purpose of the questioning was to grill his client and make him uncomfortable before the creditors. "You are not here to kill any one," he said to the attorneys, "so why grill Mr. Dier as you have done?"

Referee Miller granted an adjournment until 4 o'clock of April 17, when Dier will again take the stand. At that time the proposed "plan" for complete payment is expected to be completed by Nash Rockwood, attorney for Dier.

**LYONS ASKS OPINIONS ON VOTING MACHINES**

**Calls Conference to Pick Make for Use in City.**

Secretary of State John J. Lyons has asked the City Club and the Honest Ballot Association to name representatives to confer with him on the selection of a type of voting machine to be used in New York city in the coming election. He has not decided to name the Standard, manufactured by the Automatic Registering Machine Company of Jamestown. It is used in New York State, to the exclusion of all others, and was picked for use here a year ago.

Both the Cummings machine, made in Knox, Ind., and the Progressive, manufactured in Dayton, Ohio, are cheaper than the Standard.

**TO OBSERVE CENTENNIAL.**

**Hebrew Orphan Asylum Plans Services April 23.**

The centennial anniversary of the founding of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum, Amsterdam avenue and 136th street, will be observed Sunday night, April 23, at a meeting in the Hippodrome. The institution has graduated more than 12,500 boys and girls, and at the present

time has 1,500 children under its care. Justice Joseph E. Newburger of the Supreme Court is president of the institution.

**ATTACKS CONGRESS'S ATTITUDE**

**Security League Deplores Army and Navy Cuts.**

The board of directors of the National Security League adopted resolutions yesterday declaring the attitude of Congress toward the army and navy a national menace. Copies of the resolutions are to be sent to other organizations with the request they adopt resolutions along the same line and forward copies of them to the league for submission to Congress in the form of a single memorial.

The league hopes to have organizations having a membership of 5,000,000 represented in the memorial to Congress.

## Crouch & Fitzgerald Attention Easter Travelers

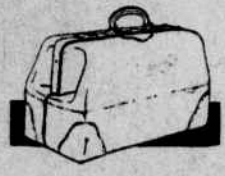
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High Class Luggage  
Ever Held in New York*



**Fitted Cases**

With fitted tray convertible into separate case. Hold all pocket 12 piece toilet set.

Were \$62.00  
NOW \$44.50



### Wardrobe Trunks

Staunchly built trunks of smart appearance, modern appointments.

Full Size were \$185.00  
NOW \$140.00

Medium Size were \$125.00  
NOW \$98.50

Many Others were \$56.00  
NOW \$44.50



**Club Bags**

Brown and black leathers, single and double handles, some with leather linings, 18 and 20 inch size.

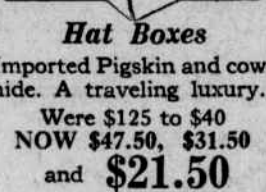
Were \$80 to \$220  
NOW \$53 to \$16.25



**Collapsible Kit Bags**

Long grain russet cowhide made in England on sale at less than bags of domestic manufacture 24 in. size.

Were \$60.00  
NOW \$45.50



**Hat Boxes**

Imported Pigskin and cowhide. A traveling luxury.

Were \$125 to \$400  
NOW \$47.50, \$31.50 and \$21.50



**Ladies' Suit Cases**

Grain cowhide semi-enamel finish, moire lined, shirred top and end pockets, Gold plated locks, 20 and 22 inch size.

Were \$28.00  
NOW \$18.75

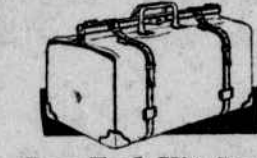


**Shopping Bags**

Velvet Calf as illustrated for shopping or traveling.

Were \$14.75  
NOW \$9.75

Others were \$50 to \$12.00  
NOW \$35 to \$7.25



**Box End Kit Bags**

Light Weight; Made in England; on sale at less than bags of domestic manufacture. Sizes 26-24 inches. Were \$75 and \$70

NOW \$60 and \$55

### Steamer Trunks

Formerly Now

\$31.00 \$23  
70.00 \$55  
95.00 \$80

### Dress Trunks

Formerly Now

\$36.00 \$25  
110.00 \$60  
132.00 \$80

### Hat Trunks

Formerly Now

\$75.00 \$50.00  
33.00 \$25.00  
29.00 \$21.50

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In our first suits for girls from 10 to 14 years there are a number of models made in high colored imported tweeds which were especially selected by us abroad for these suits.

As the one establishment specializing in the creation and production of outfits exclusively for young people, our productions possess extreme individuality.

Our accessories of dress for girls include blouses, sweaters, hats and footwear especially designed to be worn with our outer apparel.

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## R. Altman & Co.

**A Specialized Department for YOUTHS' SUITS**

(sizes 16 to 20)

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Of particular interest to young men attending preparatory school or college are the new sports and four-button sack models, shown in the snappiest of tweeds. These are the Suits so much in demand, and while they have been designed and tailored to meet a high standard, the price, nevertheless, is very reasonable—

**\$32.50**

**Additional Long Trousers or Knickerbockers**

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**Topcoats** . . . . . at 30.00

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